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Remarks

Claim 39 has been cancelled without prejudice. New claim 40 has been added and basis for this claim can be found in claims 38 and 39 and in the description as a whole.

In section 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejects claim 39 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christie (US patent no. 6,031,840). The applicant does not accept the Examiner's rejections. However, in the interest of getting this case granted no further arguments are submitted and claim 39 has been cancelled.

Claim 40, which has been added, is a method claim which corresponds directly to the apparatus claim of claim 38. As the Examiner has already indicated that claim 38 is allowable, the applicants submit that claim 40 is also allowable.

As the Examiner has already indicated that remaining claims 12 to 22 are also allowable, the applicants submit that this application is now in order for allowance, and such action is solicited.

August 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted

William M. Lee, Jr. Registration No. 26,935

Barnes & Thomburg

P.O. Box 2788

Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786

(312) 214-4800

8/8/2003 3:12

(312) 759-5646 (fax)

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